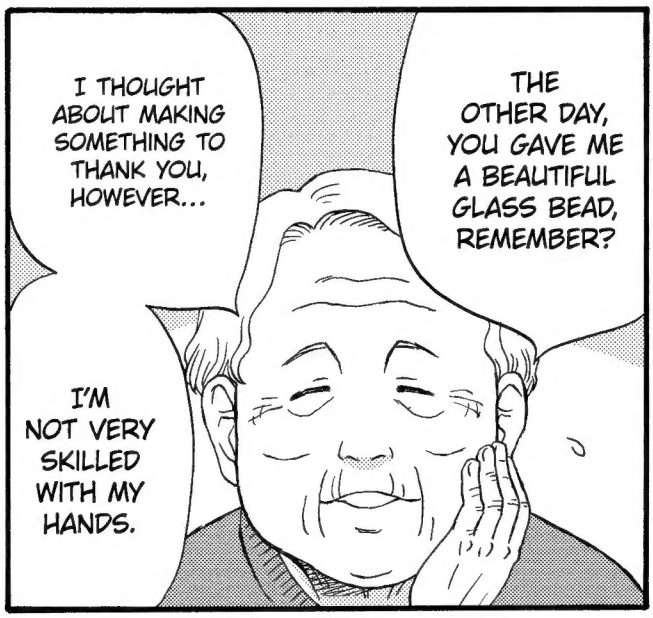
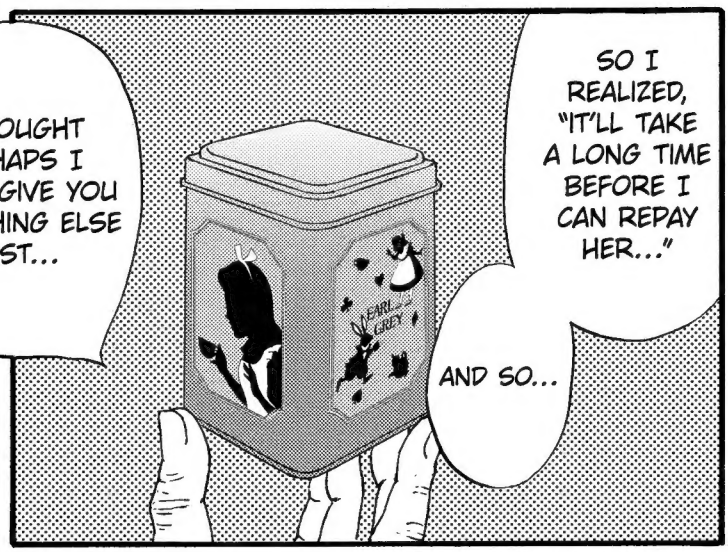
Extra Chapter: The Ishimura Family's Tea Time

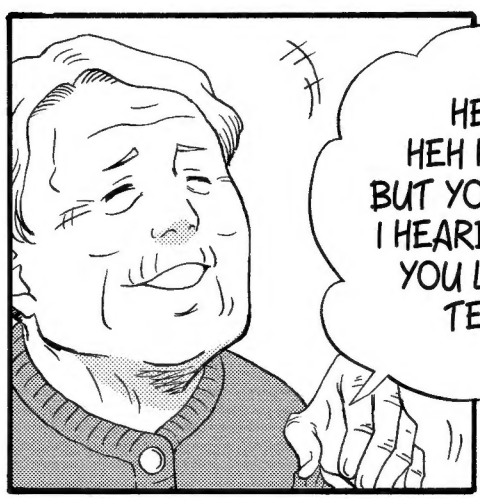
SAIGA GENERAL HOSPITAL
EARL GREY
HERE, ISHIMURA-SENSEI.

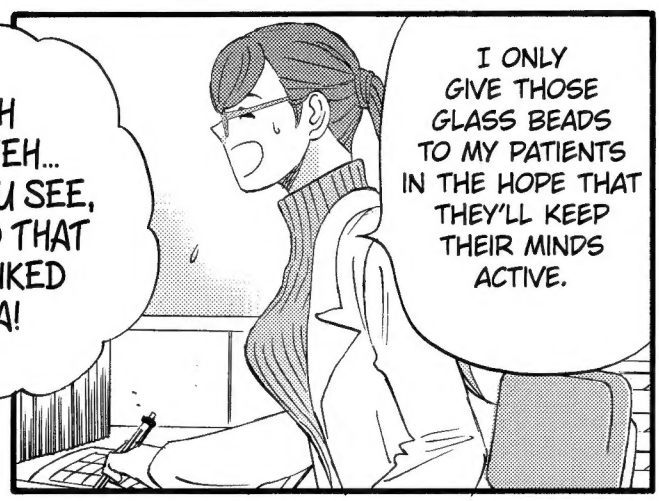

THE OTHER DAY, YOU GAVE ME A BEAUTIFUL GLASS BEAD, REMEMBER?
I THOUGHT ABOUT MAKING SOMETHING TO THANK YOU, HOWEVER...
I'M NOT VERY SKILLED WITH MY HANDS.

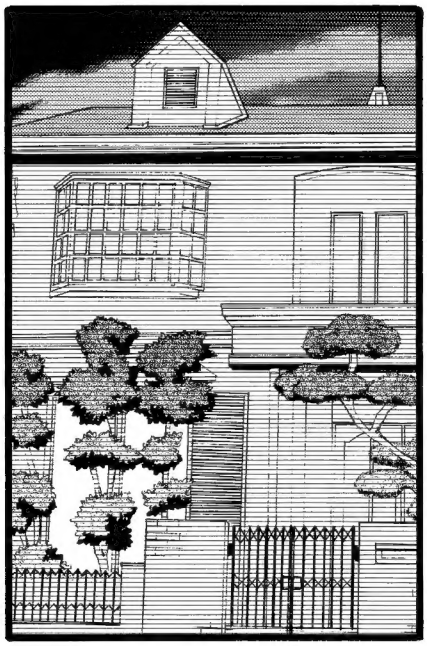
IS THIS TEA?
YES, IT IS.
WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THIS?

I THOUGHT PERHAPS I COULD GIVE YOU SOMETHING ELSE FIRST...
OH, PLEASE. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO...

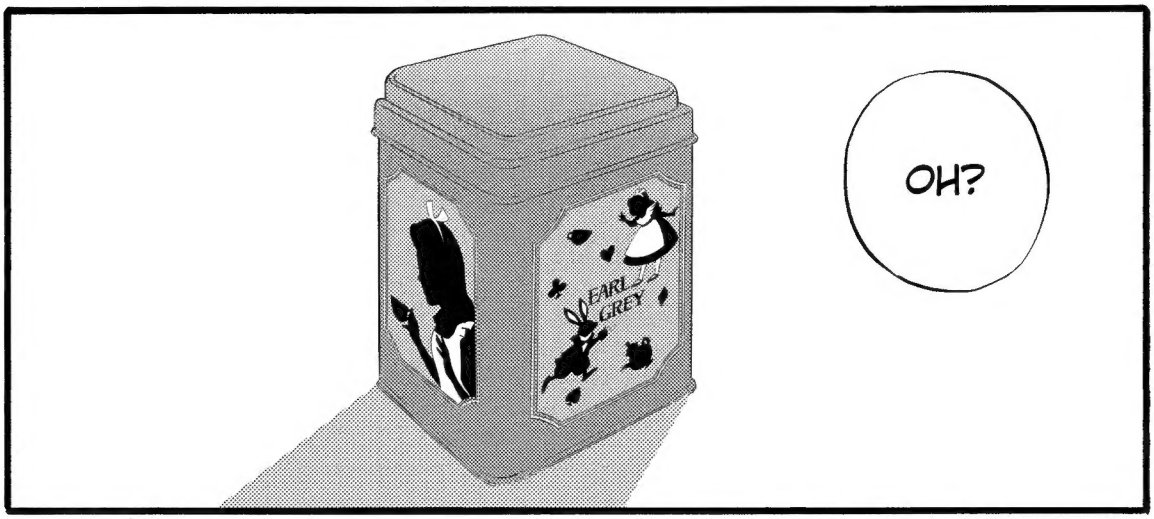

SO I REALIZED, "IT'LL TAKE A LONG TIME BEFORE I CAN REPAY HER..."
AND SO...
EARL GREY

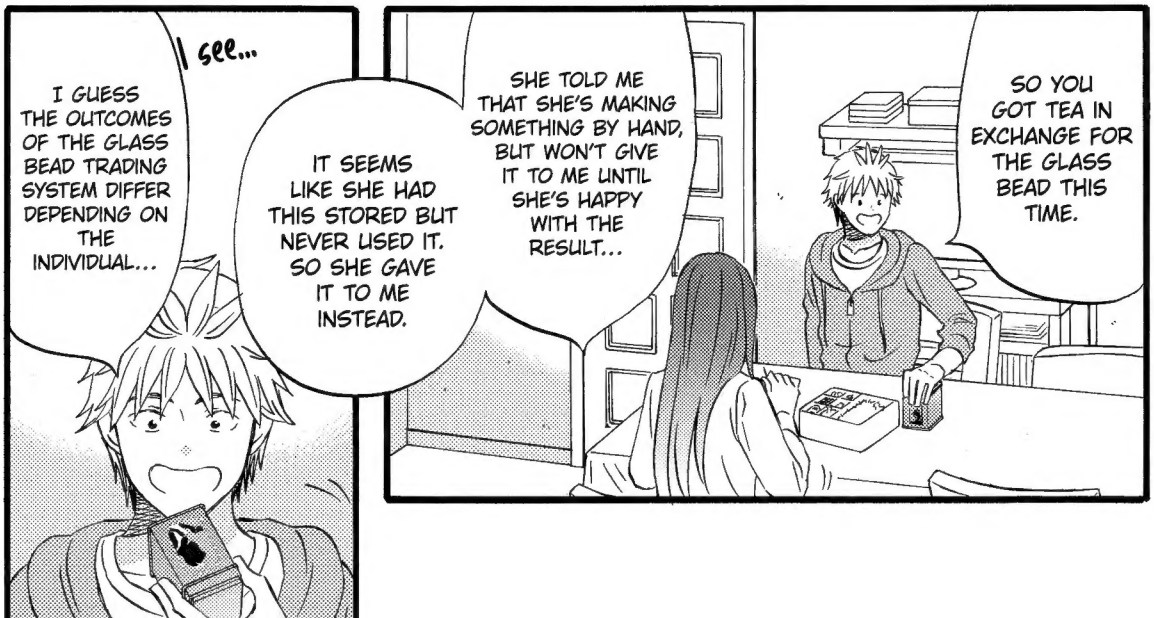

HEH HEH HEH... BUT YOU SEE, I HEARD THAT YOU LIKED TEA!

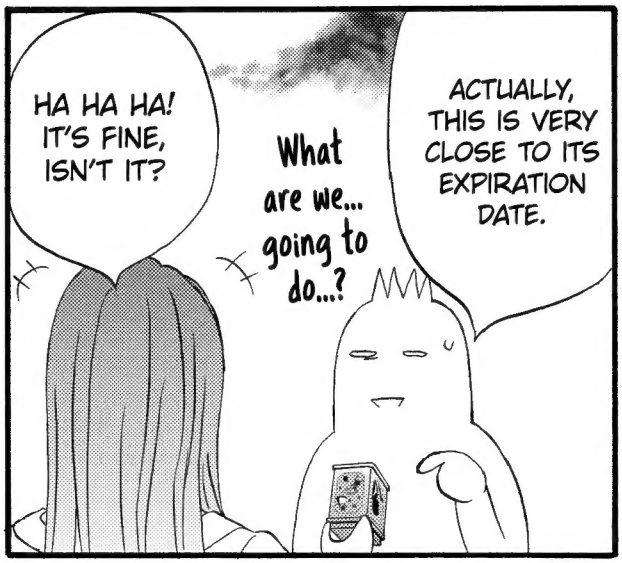

I ONLY GIVE THOSE GLASS BEADS TO MY PATIENTS IN THE HOPE THAT THEY'LL KEEP THEIR MINDS ACTIVE.

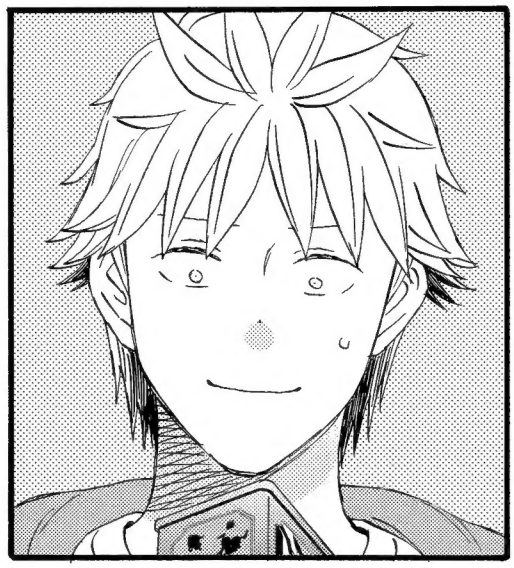


...
IN FACT, SOMEONE GAVE THIS TO ME. BUT WE DON'T DRINK MUCH TEA AT MY HOUSE, SO I THOUGHT, "OH, DEAR. AT THIS RATE, IT'LL JUST GO TO WASTE..." THAT'S WHY I WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF YOU ACCEPTED THIS SMALL GIFT...

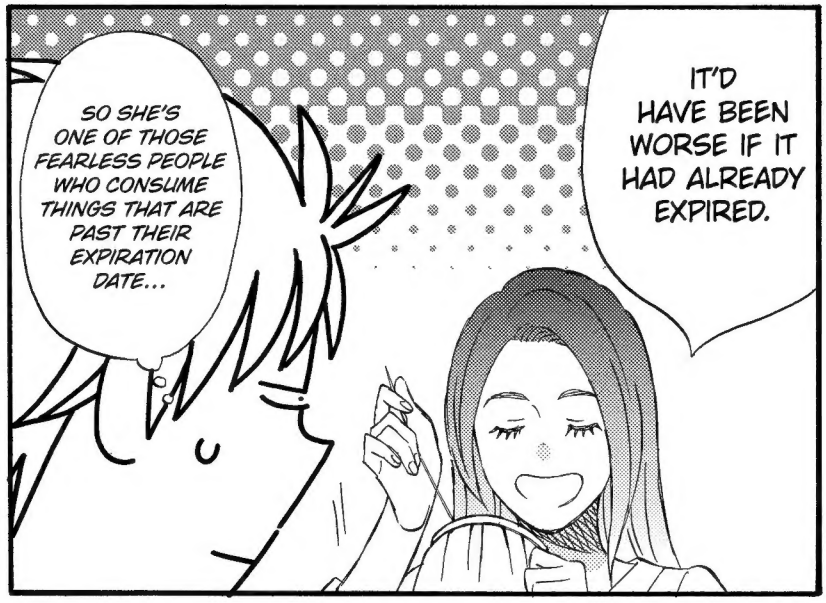

OH?
EARL GREY


SO YOU GOT TEA IN EXCHANGE FOR THE GLASS BEAD THIS TIME.
SHE TOLD ME THAT SHE'S MAKING SOMETHING BY HAND, BUT WON'T GIVE IT TO ME UNTIL SHE'S HAPPY WITH THE RESULT...
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE HAD THIS STORED BUT NEVER USED IT. SO SHE GAVE IT TO ME INSTEAD.
I SEE...
I GUESS THE OUTCOMES OF THE GLASS BEAD TRADING SYSTEM DIFFER DEPENDING ON THE INDIVIDUAL...

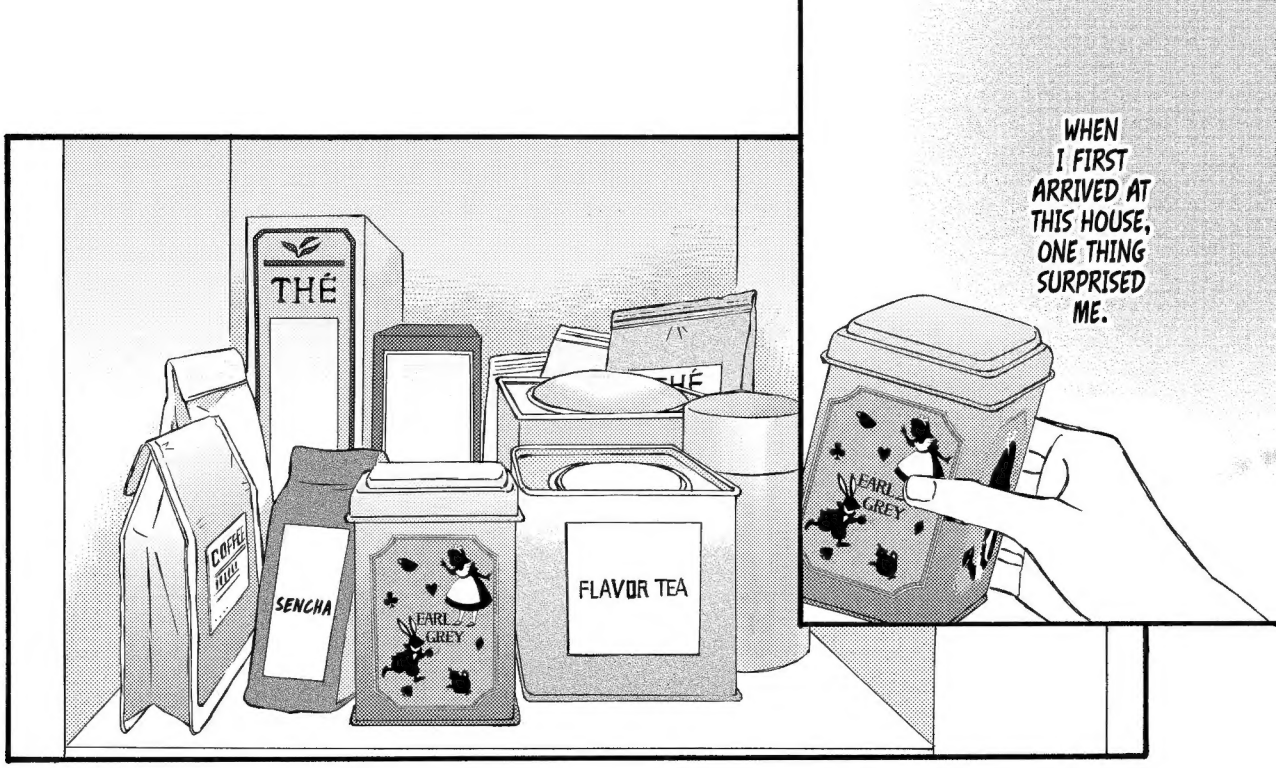

HA HA HA! IT'S FINE, ISN'T IT?
What are we... going to do...?
ACTUALLY, THIS IS VERY CLOSE TO ITS EXPIRATION DATE.

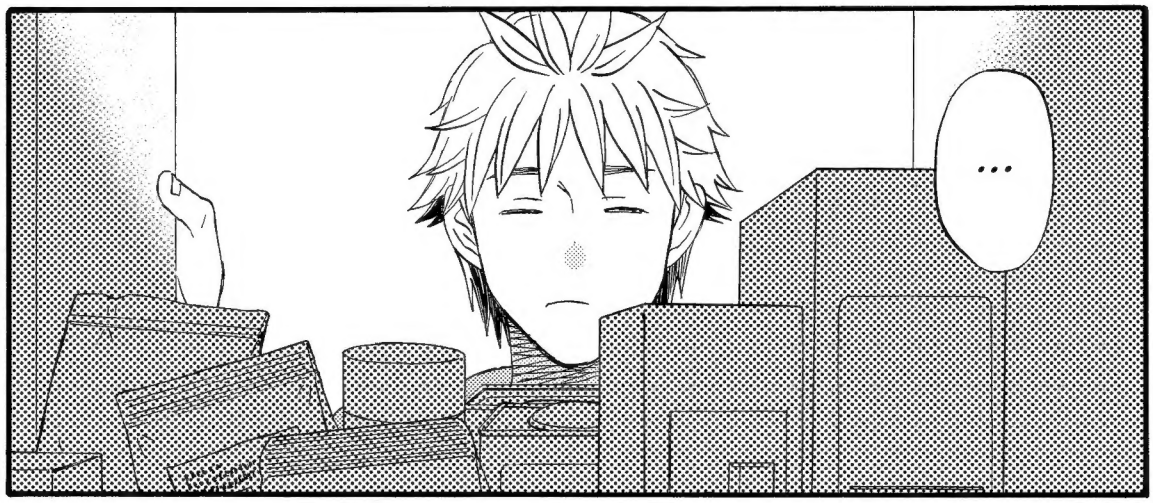


ANYWAY...


SO SHE'S ONE OF THOSE FEARLESS PEOPLE WHO CONSUME THINGS THAT ARE PAST THEIR EXPIRATION DATE...
IT'D HAVE BEEN WORSE IF IT HAD ALREADY EXPIRED.

CAN WE HAVE SOME TEA?
OKAY...


THÉ
SENCHA
EARL GREY
FLAVOR TEA
WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED AT THIS HOUSE, ONE THING SURPRISED ME.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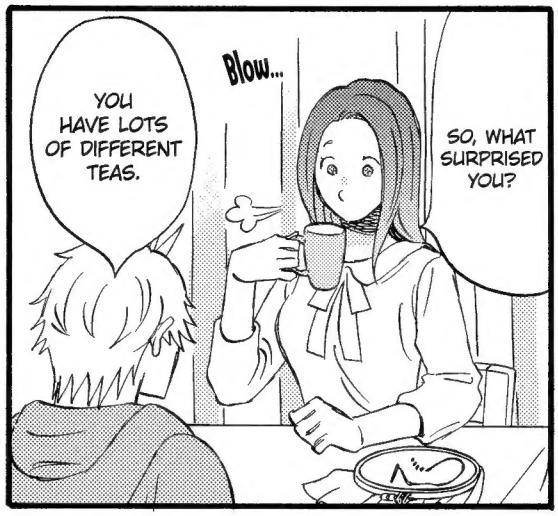
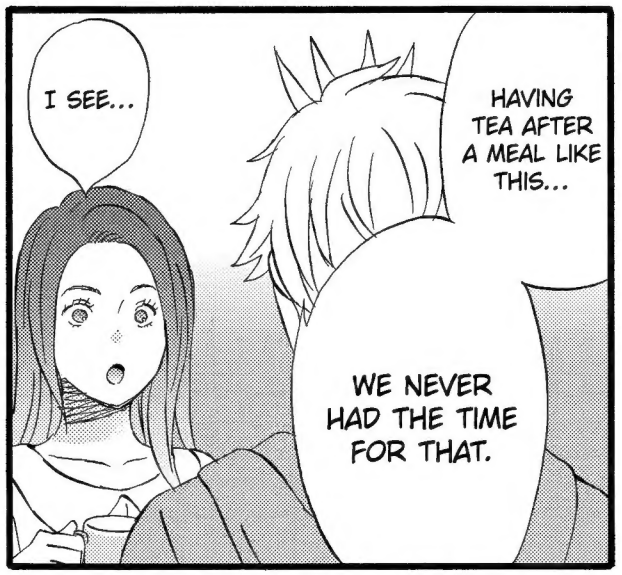
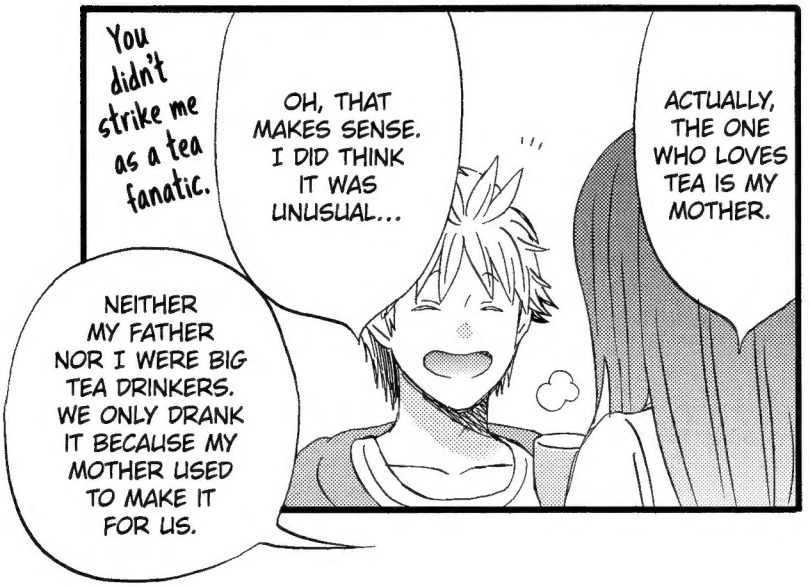

YOU HAVE LOTS OF DIFFERENT TEAS.
Blow...
SO, WHAT SURPRISED YOU?

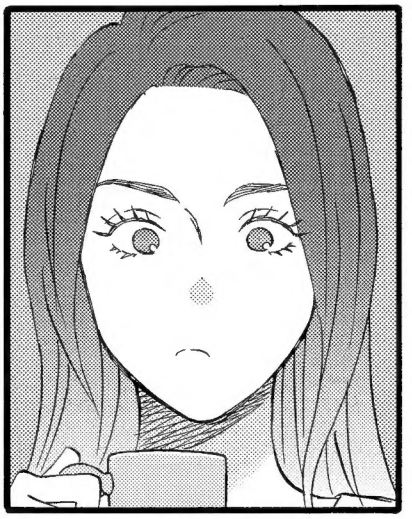
HERE YOU GO...
THANKS.

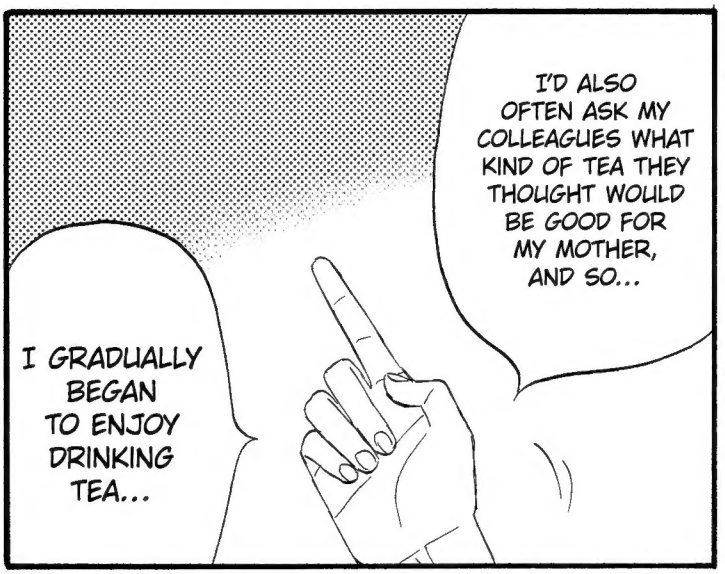
YOU OFTEN TELL ME THAT YOU WANT TO DRINK TEA...
GREEN TEA, BLACK TEA, GENMAICHA, HOJICHA, SENCHA, COFFEE BEAN TEA, HERBAL TEA, AND OTHER VARIETIES I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.
SO IT HAS BECOME PART OF MY ROUTINE TOO...


I SEE...
HAVING TEA AFTER A MEAL LIKE THIS...
WE NEVER HAD THE TIME FOR THAT.

WE DRANK WATER AND BARLEY TEA WITH OUR MEALS, BUT...
BUT I'LL BE HONEST, WE NEVER DRANK TEA AT MY PARENT'S HOUSE.

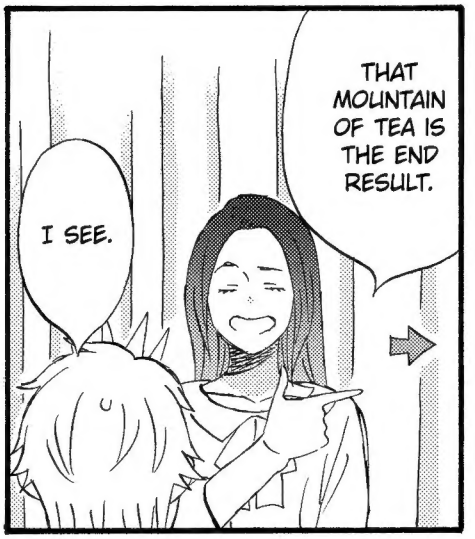

You didn't strike me as a tea fanatic.
OH, THAT MAKES SENSE. I DID THINK IT WAS UNUSUAL...
ACTUALLY, THE ONE WHO LOVES TEA IS MY MOTHER.
NEITHER MY FATHER NOR I WERE BIG TEA DRINKERS. WE ONLY DRANK IT BECAUSE MY MOTHER USED TO MAKE IT FOR US.



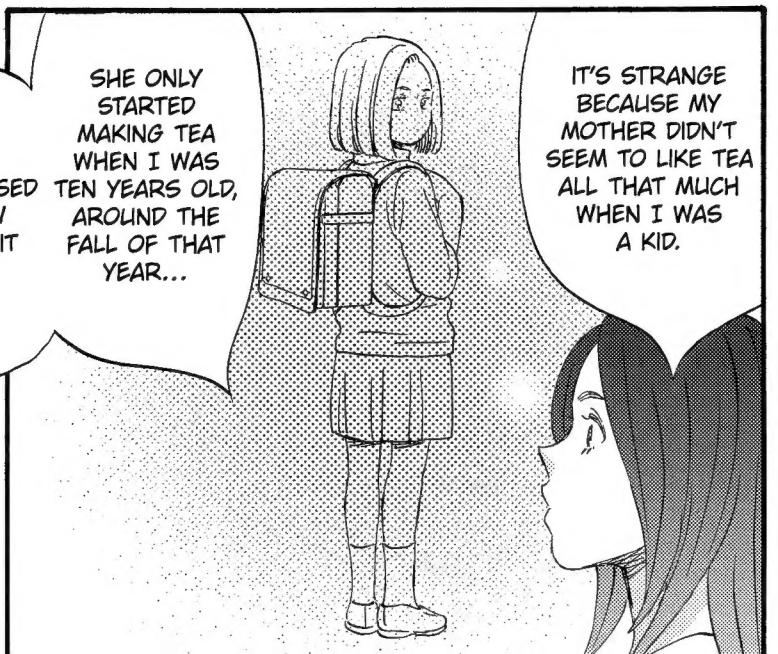

I'D ALSO OFTEN ASK MY COLLEAGUES WHAT KIND OF TEA THEY THOUGHT WOULD BE GOOD FOR MY MOTHER, AND SO...
I GRADUALLY BEGAN TO ENJOY DRINKING TEA...

THE TWO OF US WOULD OFTEN BUY HER TEA, KNOWING THAT IT'D MAKE HER HAPPY.

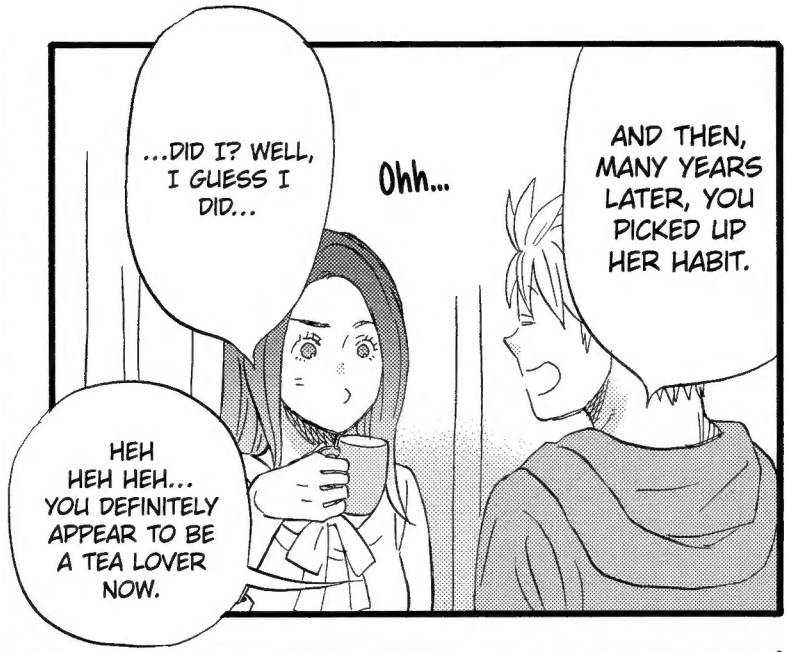
I DO THINK IT'S NICE THAT YOU LIKE TEA.
I DUNNO... I FEEL LIKE GOOD PEOPLE LIKE TEA.
DO YOU THINK SO?

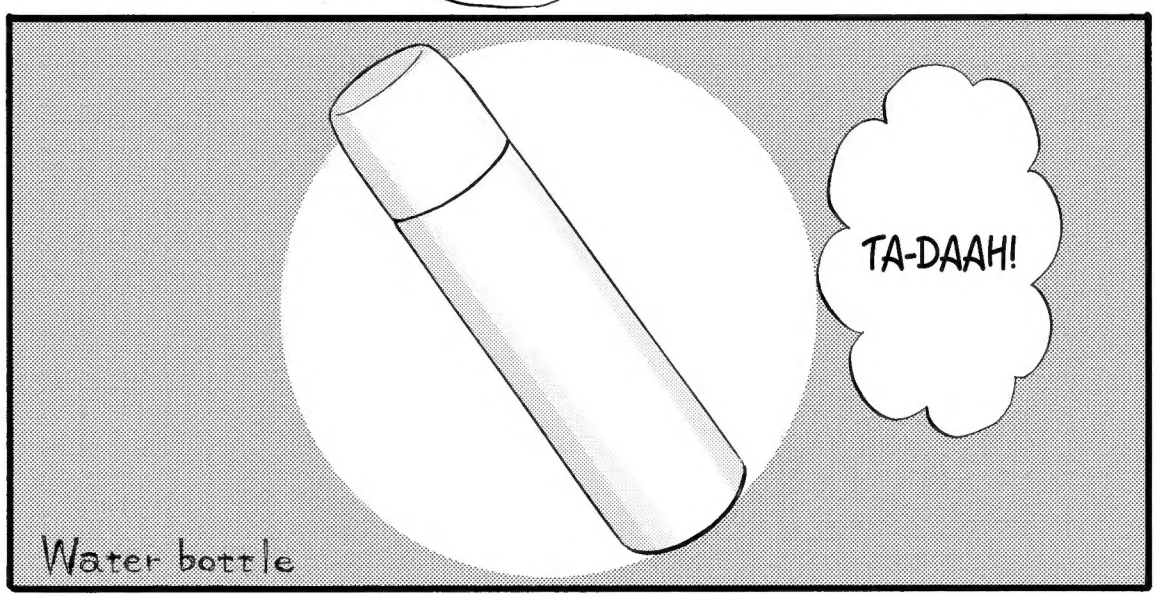

THAT MOUNTAIN OF TEA IS THE END RESULT.
I SEE.

HA HA HA! SHE MUST'VE GOTTEN HOOKED AROUND THAT TIME...

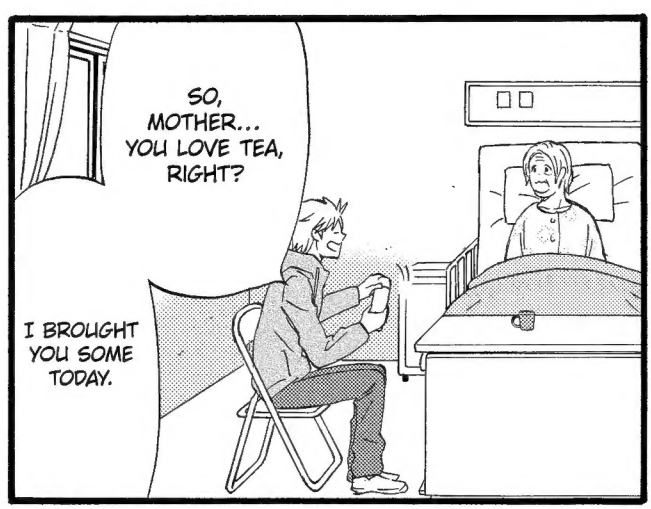

IT'S STRANGE BECAUSE MY MOTHER DIDN'T SEEM TO LIKE TEA ALL THAT MUCH WHEN I WAS A KID.
SHE ONLY STARTED MAKING TEA WHEN I WAS TEN YEARS OLD, AROUND THE FALL OF THAT YEAR...
IT SURPRISED ME HOW SUDDEN IT WAS.

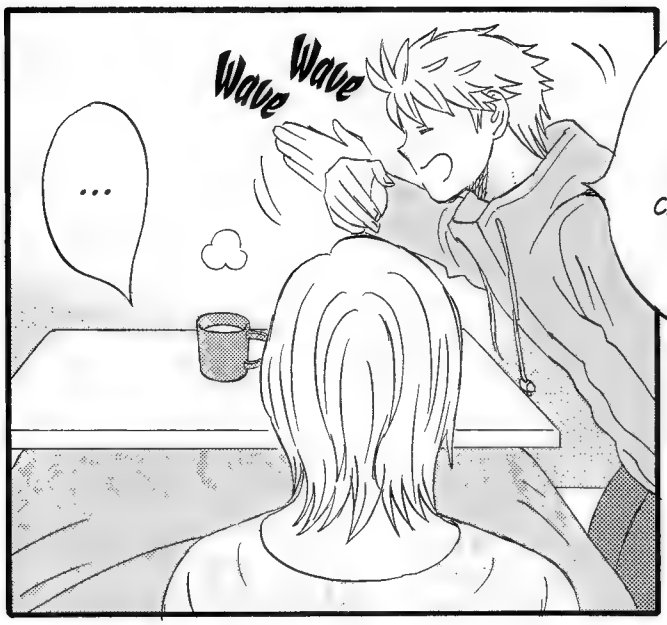
SAIGA GENERAL HOSPITAL


AND THEN, MANY YEARS LATER, YOU PICKED UP HER HABIT.
Ohh...
...DID I? WELL, I GUESS I DID...
HEH HEH HEH... YOU DEFINITELY APPEAR TO BE A TEA LOVER NOW.

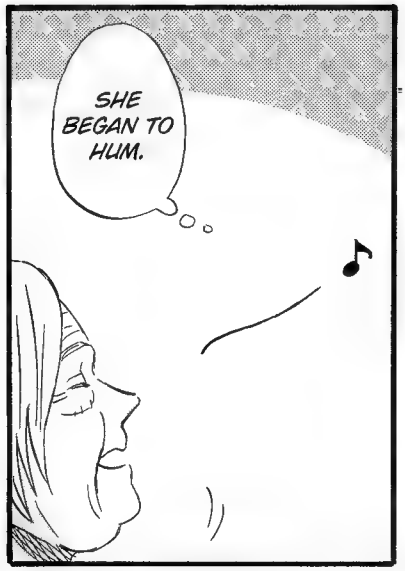

TA-DAAH!
Water bottle

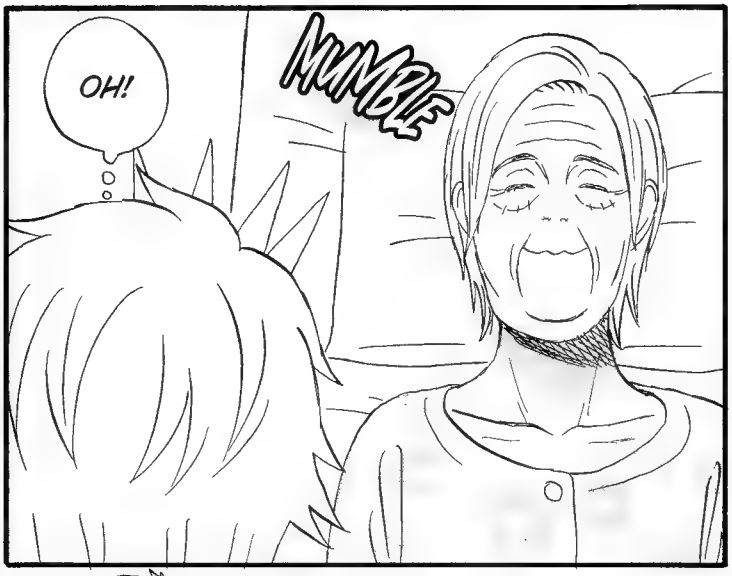
I MADE A FLAVORFUL TEA FOR YOU TO ENJOY EVEN IF YOU CAN'T DRINK IT.
GLUP GLUP


SO, MOTHER... YOU LOVE TEA, RIGHT?
I BROUGHT YOU SOME TODAY.

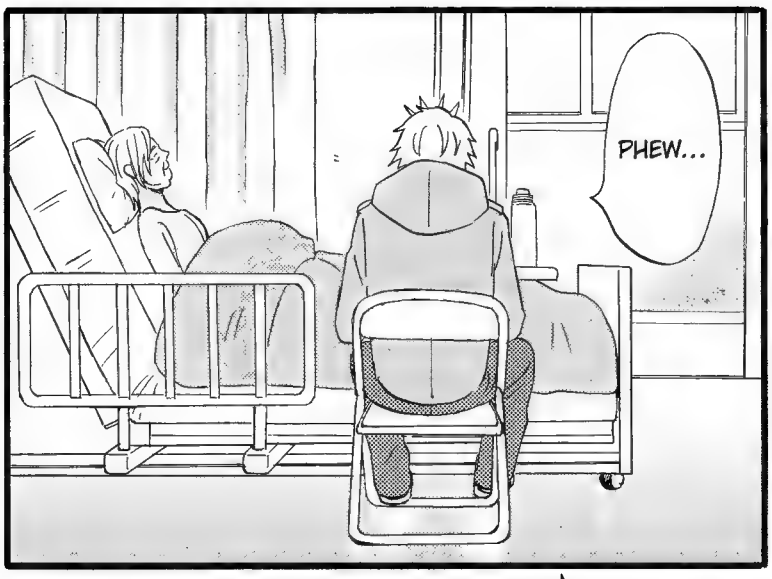

Wave
Wave
...

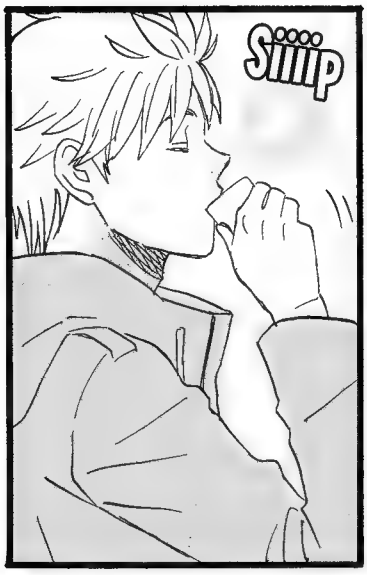
I'LL WAVE MY HAND A BIT SO YOU CAN SMELL ITS FRAGRANCE.
Thunk


SHE BEGAN TO HUM.


OH!
MUMBLE

ALL RIGHT... I'LL HAVE A CUP AS WELL.
I GUESS SHE'S IN A GOOD MOOD...

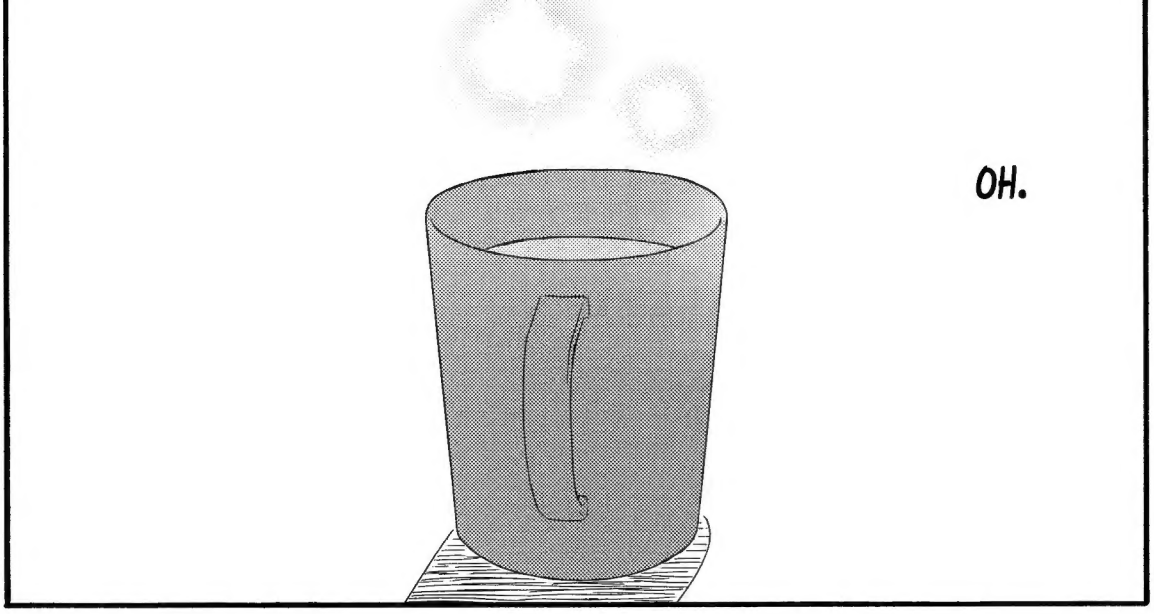

PHEW...


Sllllp

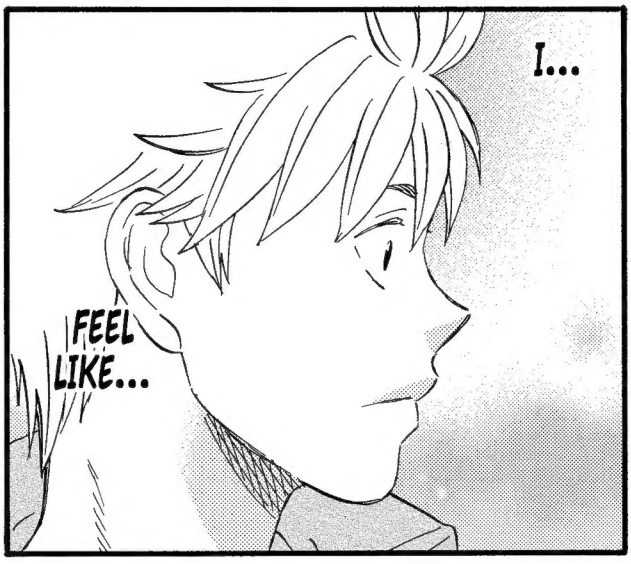
Relaxed...
IT'S SO QUIET...
...

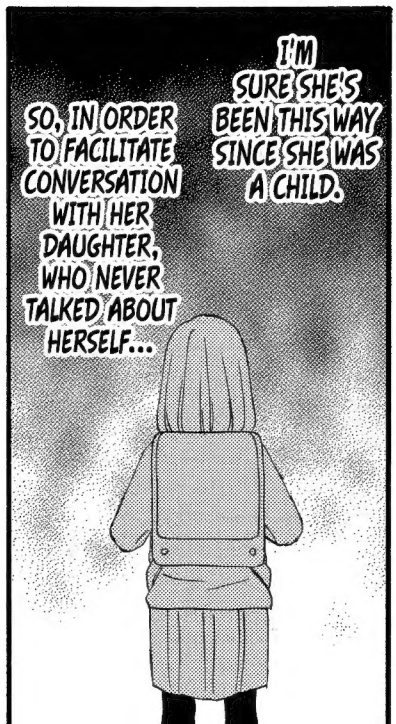
...
IF MOTHER COULD TALK, I'M SURE SHE'D TELL ME A LOT OF STORIES...

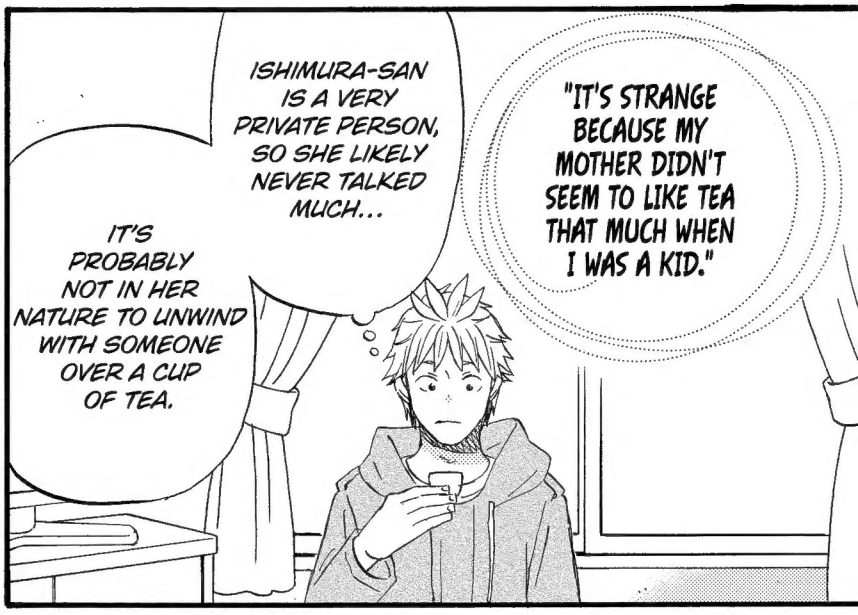
HEH HEH... WHEN I HAVE TEA WITH ISHIMURA-SAN...
WE ALWAYS END UP TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING.


OH.

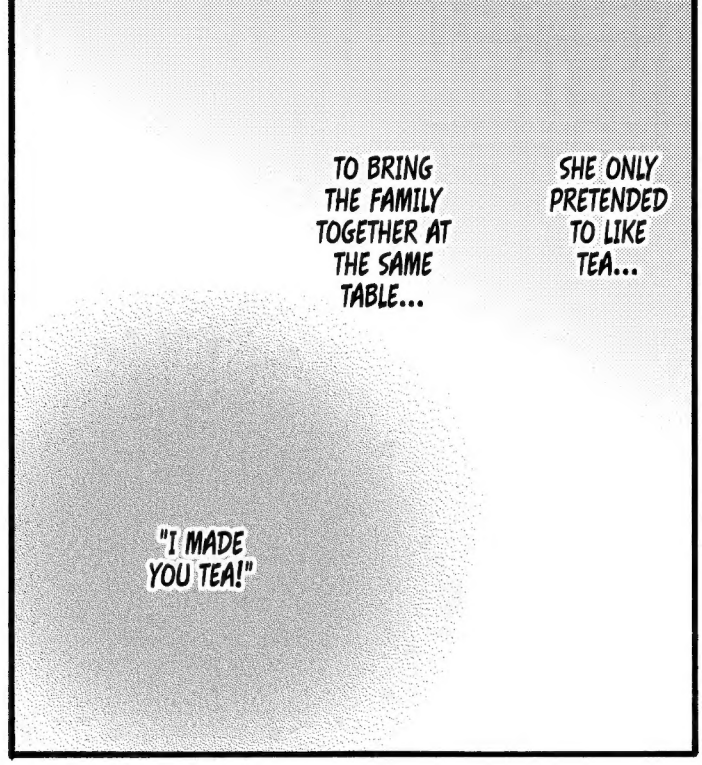
I GET IT.

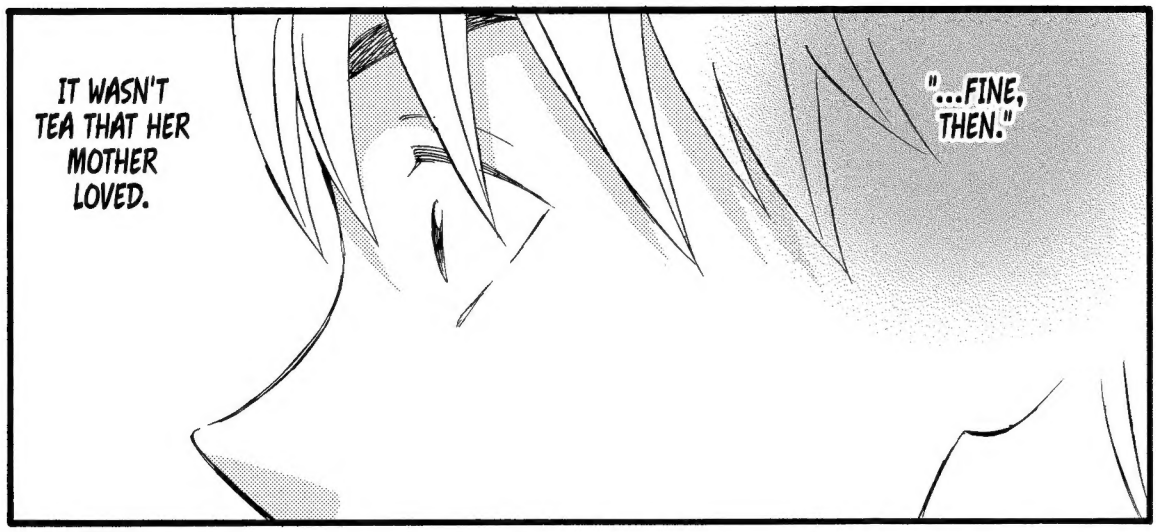

I...
FEEL LIKE...

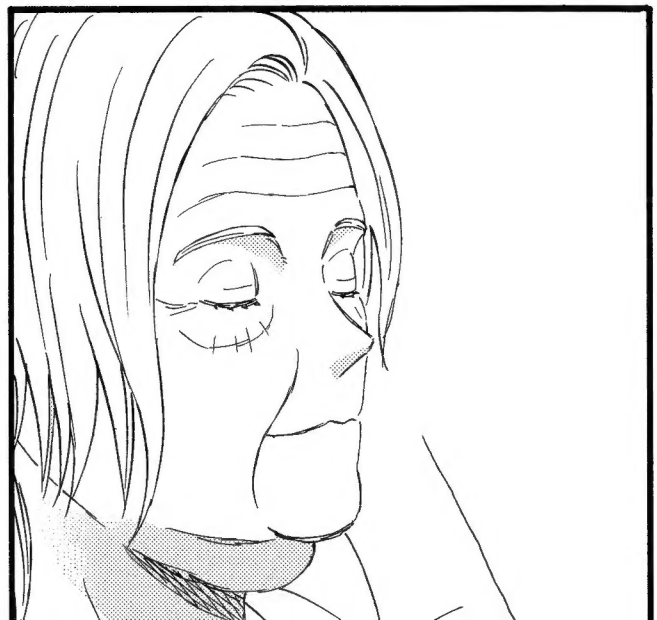

I'M SURE SHE'S BEEN THIS WAY SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD.
SO, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE CONVERSATION WITH HER DAUGHTER, WHO NEVER TALKED ABOUT HERSELF...

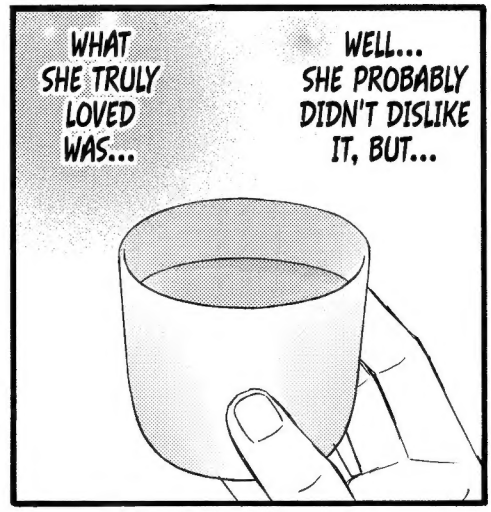

"IT'S STRANGE BECAUSE MY MOTHER DIDN'T SEEM TO LIKE TEA THAT MUCH WHEN I WAS A KID."
ISHIMURA-SAN IS A VERY PRIVATE PERSON, SO SHE LIKELY NEVER TALKED MUCH...
IT'S PROBABLY NOT IN HER NATURE TO UNWIND WITH SOMEONE OVER A CUP OF TEA.

"NO, THANKS."
"NOW, DON'T SAY THAT. COME ON, HAVE A CUP WITH ME. YOU KNOW HOW YOUR MOTHER LOVES TEA...!"

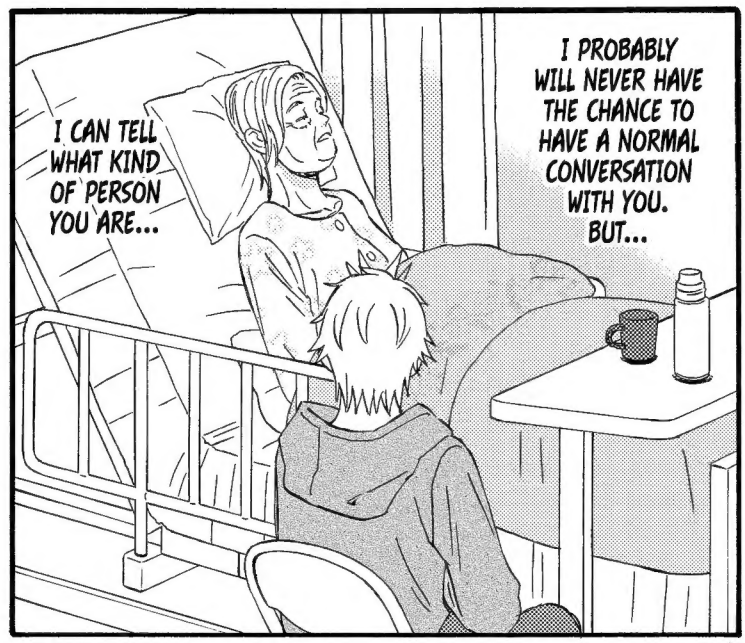

TO BRING THE FAMILY TOGETHER AT THE SAME TABLE...
SHE ONLY PRETENDED TO LIKE TEA...
"I MADE YOU TEA!"

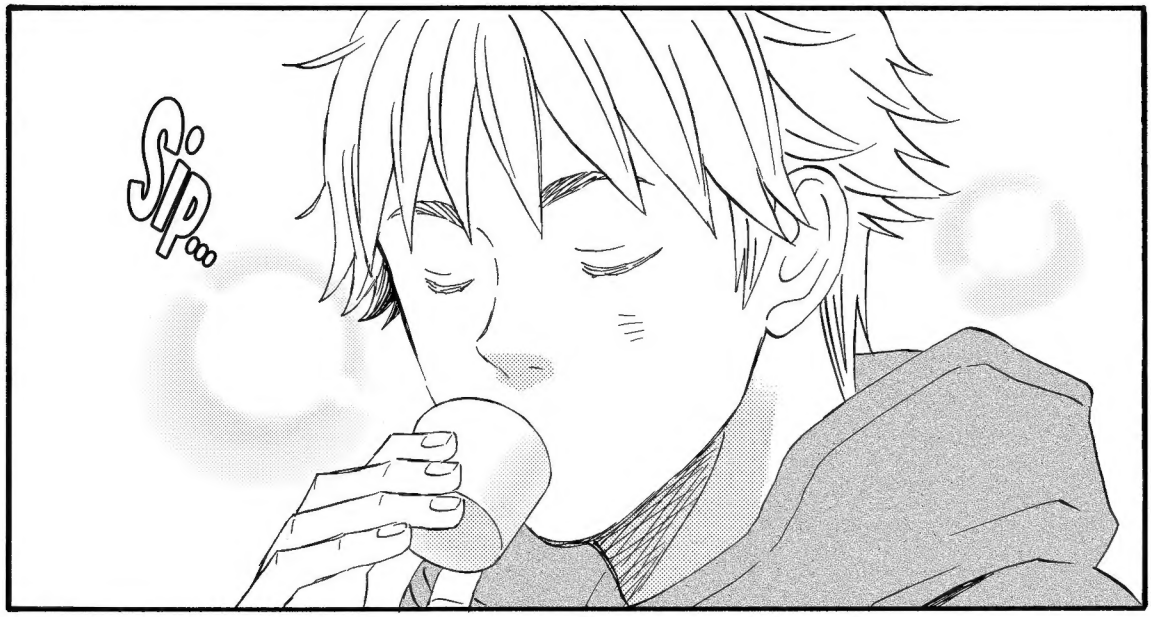

IT WASN'T TEA THAT HER MOTHER LOVED.
"...FINE, THEN."

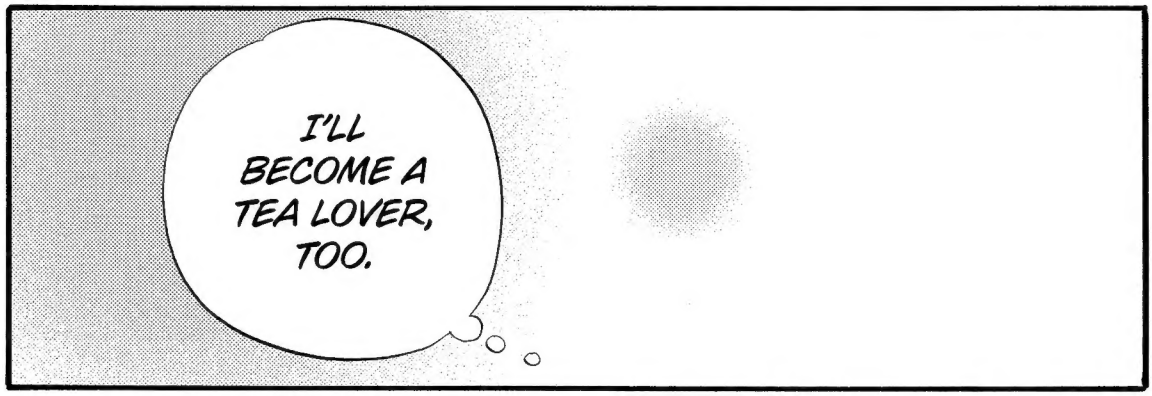



WHAT SHE TRULY LOVED WAS...
WELL... SHE PROBABLY DIDN'T DISLIKE IT, BUT...

...BECAUSE OF SMALL THINGS LIKE THIS.


I CAN TELL WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU ARE...
I PROBABLY WILL NEVER HAVE THE CHANCE TO HAVE A NORMAL CONVERSATION WITH YOU. BUT...


SIP...


I'LL BECOME A TEA LOVER, TOO.